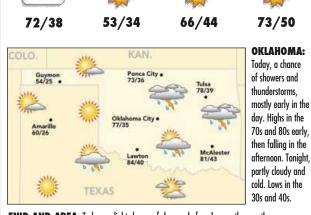
WEATHER **■** NATION



FRIDAY

SATURDAY

SUNDAY

ENID AND AREA: Today, a slight chance of showers before 1 p.m., then partly sunny. High, 72 at 10 a.m., then falling. South wind, switching to north in the afternoon at 17-20 mph and gusty. Tonight, partly cloudy. Low, 38. North-northwest wind at 18-21 mph and gusty.

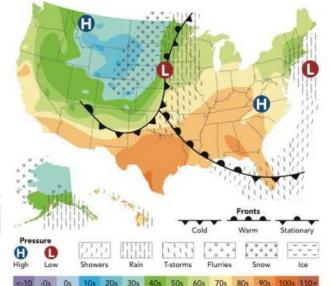
ENID ALMANAC

TODAY

YESTERDAY High: 83 Low: 59 Precipitation: Trace

YEAR AGO TODAY RECORD THIS DATE TODAY High: 96 in 1965 Low: 32 in 1925 Precipitation to date: 40.12 inches

Sunrise: 7:32 a.m. Sunset: 7:05 p.m.



MOON PHASES LAST

EXTENDED FORECAST: Today, a slight chance of showers early, with highs in the 70s in the morning. Temperature then will fall into the 50s. Skies will remain mostly sunny through the weekend, with highs Friday in the 50s, climbing to the 70s by

WEATHER PHOTO OF THE DAY:



People clear the sidewalk after a fall snowstorm Wednesday in Helena, Mont. (AP Photo)

GOT A WEATHER PHOTO? SUBMIT IT AS OUR PHOTO OF THE DAY. INCLUDE NAME, HOMETOWN AND PHOTO LOCATION. SEND THE 3-INCH-WIDE BY 2-INCH-DEEP, 200 RESOLUTION. .JPG PHOTO TO ENIDNEWS@ENIDNEWS.COM.

WEATHER TRIVIA:



On this date in 2004, 2.19 inches of rain fell at Will Rogers World Airport in Oklahoma City.

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Defiant Trump makes obstruction charge more certain

WASHINGTON The combative White House letter vowing to defy the "illegitimate" impeachment inquiry has actually put President Donald Trump on a more certain path to charges. His refusal to honor subpoenas or allow testimony would likely play into a formal accusation against him.

The letter sent to House leaders by White House Counsel Pat Cipollone Tuesday evening declared the president would not cooperate with the investigation — a clear reason, Democrats say, to write an article of impeachment charging him with obstruction.

The White House insists that a formal House vote is necessary just to start the impeachment process.

But Democrats are moving ahead without one, confident for now that they are backed by the Constitution and Trump's own acknowledgements of trying to persuade a foreign government to investigate a political foe.

"The White House should be warned that continued efforts to hide the truth of the president's abuse of power from the American people will be regarded as further evidence of obstruction," said House Speaker Nancy Pelosi in response to the letter. "Mr. President, you are not above the law. You will be held accountable."

Trump again defended his decision not to cooperate, calling a whistleblower's complaint about his call with Ukraine's leader "a fraud being perpetrated on the American public" and saying Republicans are being treated unfairly. He repeated he was being vilified for "a perfect phone call."

But the president also undercut his no-cooperation argument Wednesday by putting conditions on his willingness, saying he would cooperate only if the House held a vote and Democrats would "give us our rights."

Bolstered by polls showing increased public support for impeachment, Pelosi has shown no signs of shifting her strategy.

Democrats plan to contin-

ue investigating while focusing on the president's own acknowledgements that he asked Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy to investigate his country's involvement in the 2016 presidential election and also political rival Joe Biden and his family.

"The evidence provided by the president and his people has already been overwhelming," even without additional witness testimony, said Connecticut Rep. Jim

Himes is a Democratic member of the House intelligence committee, which is leading the Ukraine investi-

The intelligence panel, along with the Foreign Affairs and Oversight and Government Reform panels, subpoenaed Gordon Sondland, the U.S. European Union ambassador, on Tuesday after Trump's State Department barred him from showing up at a scheduled deposition. Texts provided by another diplomat last week showed Sondland and others navigating Trump's demands for investigations as they spoke to Ukrainian government officials about a possi-



President Donald Trump answers questions from reporters during an event on "transparency in Federal guidance and enforcement" in the Roosevelt Room of the White House Wednesday in Washington. (AP

ble visit to Washington.

Trump's stonewalling of impeachment comes as polls find that Americans are more likely to approve than disapprove of the inquiry, even as they divide on whether Trump should be removed from office.

58% supportive of the decision by Congress to launch an impeachment inquiry

that could lead to Trump

being removed from office.

About half of all Americans also think Congress should remove Trump from office.

Still, the White House signaled it would not give an inch. Trump has taken to Twitter frequently to bash the probe, charging that the inquiry is not about anything more than partisan politics.

"The Do Nothing Democrats are Con Artists, only looking to hurt the Republican Party and President," Trump wrote. "Their total focus is 2020, nothing more, and nothing less."

After two weeks of an unfocused response to the impeachment probe, the White House letter amounted to the first volley in a strategy that is more defined - but one that carries its own risks.

"All that defiance does is add to the case" against the president, including obstruction of Congress, said Virginia Rep. Gerry Connolly, a Democrat who sits on the Oversight and Foreign Affairs panels. He said the White House strategy

KING PLAINS WIND PROJECT

actually works to convince the public of the president's guilt, citing the recent polls.

"The public gets what's happening," Connolly said.

But Trump allies both

inside and outside the West Wing were pleased at the shot the letter represented.

They argue their best chance at winning the politics of impeachment is to emulate the just-say-no tactics they used for much of the special counsel's Russia probe and against other investigations launched by Democrats in the House majority.

By making the fight as contentious as possible, the White House hopes to convince voters that the impeachment process is simply about politics.

They also want to push the proceedings into next year, when the first ballots of the 2020 primaries are cast.

That would make it easier for Republicans to demand that impeachment be put aside in favor of letting the voters decide in November







